



CALIFORNIA  
HEALTHCARE  
FOUNDATION

# California Clinical Data Project: Setting Standards

## **A Snapshot of CALINX Rx 2.0**

**November 2004**



# What Is CALINX Rx 2.0?

CALINX Rx 2.0 is a file format for transferring pharmacy data.

Specifically, CALINX Rx 2.0 is:

- A batch of prescription claims paid by a health plan on behalf of its members
- Each record represents a single dispensed prescription
- The file format is fixed-width (non-delimited) text
- Files are sent in “batches” each month from health plans to contracted provider organizations
- Batches are “retrospective”; they reflect pharmacy claims paid in a previous month

# Why Is CALINX Rx 2.0 Needed?

## Reasoning

- Existing pharmacy data exchange standard (CALINX 1.0) was not uniformly adopted
- CALINX 1.0 released in 2000 requires updating
- Provider groups receive pharmacy data in a variety of formats, making it difficult to manage and use
- Managing chronic conditions requires clinicians to have access to accurate, timely clinical data when making treatment decisions
- CALINX is an effective way to transfer clinical pharmacy data to providers of care



## How Will CALINX Rx 2.0 Data Be Used?

Pharmacy data will be used by provider groups to:

- Provide physicians with more accurate and timely pharmacy data for patients
- Self-report Pay for Performance clinical measures
- Populate electronic health records, disease registries, and data repositories
- Support disease management and quality improvement programs



# Who Will Use CALINX Rx 2.0?

CALINX Rx 2.0 will first be adopted by:

- Six large commercial health plans in California:
  - Aetna
  - Blue Cross
  - Blue Shield
  - CIGNA
  - Health Net
  - PacifiCare
- Approximately 180 provider organizations in California currently receive pharmacy data in some format from the above plans



# How Was CALINX Rx 2.0 Developed?

Overseen by an executive committee representing:

- Provider organizations, health plans, commercial labs, hospitals, community clinics, purchasers, and state government

Developed by:

- Workgroups made up of technical experts from executive committee organizations

Will be supported by:

- Software tools and toolkits, technical assistance, and a governance body to oversee maintenance and updates to the standard

Other standards to be developed:

- CALINX Lab slated for adoption mid-2005



## Where Can I Learn More ?

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Web site: [www.calinxstandards.org](http://www.calinxstandards.org)

Contact: [CALINX-Rx@sujansky.com](mailto:CALINX-Rx@sujansky.com)